

Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana
POL 101: Introduction to American Government and Politics
Fall 2005 – Internet Section
Instructor: Curtis B. Ankeny, MPA

Course Description: This course introduces the foundations, nature and dynamics of American government and politics including constitutional foundations, civil liberties and civil rights; federalism and political parties; public opinion, interest groups, media; nominations, campaigns, elections; the Presidency, Judiciary, Congress, and bureaucracy; and public policy issues.

Prerequisites: Demonstrated competency through appropriate assessment or earning a grade of "C" or better in: ENG 025 - Introduction to College Writing II and ENG 032 - Reading Strategies for College II

Credit Hours: Three (3)

Date of Revision: August 2005

**Effective Date
of this Revision:** August 2005

Catalog Description: Studies federalism, theories and origins and purposes of government and other aspects of the American government including interest groups, political parties, and the electoral process. Emphasis is placed on constitutional backgrounds and the organization and functions of the executive, legislative, and judicial segment of the national government, civil liberties and civil rights, public opinion, media, bureaucracies, and domestic and foreign policy.

Major Course Learning Objectives: Ideally, upon successful completion of this course you will be expected to have a greater understanding of:

1. The foundations and basis of the American system of government and democracy, including the Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Federalism.
2. The various dynamics of political behavior in individuals and groups, including political parties, public opinion, interest groups, media, nominations, political campaigns and elections.
3. The operations and the unique and special powers of the various government institutions including the executive, judicial and legislative branches; and the power of the bureaucracy.
4. And the ability to evaluate current global political developments and their impact on public policy in the area of domestic and international affairs.

Course Content: Topical areas of study will include:

History and Theories of Government
Constitutional Structure
Challenges of Federalism
Civil rights
Civil liberties
Supreme Court & Case Law
Nominations & Elections

Rise of American democracy
Public Policy
Media
Globalism
Current events
Political Parties
Domestic & Foreign Policy

Attendance Policy: Attendance for this course will be satisfied by participating in the weekly discussion boards. To receive full credit for "attending" class each week, you must post your comments one or more times in response to the topic of the week, addressing one or more topics presented in the assigned readings. **Postings submitted the week (or more) after the week a particular topic is posted will NOT receive full points.** *(Please consider that when you do not participate in a particular week's Discussion Board, it is similar as choosing not to attend a traditional class and not enter in the class discussions.)* **For the purposes of this class, a "week" begins on Monday and ends on Sunday.**

Discussion Board Guidelines:

1. All postings on the Discussion Board are public – please make sure that your comments are appropriate for the entire class to read.
2. Discussion Board posts may be removed by the instructor or system administrator if they are deemed inappropriate.
3. You can be blocked from a particular discussion board or from all discussion areas if your conduct is deemed to be inappropriate.
4. The Discussion Board does not have the capability to spell/grammar check your messages and you cannot save messages as you are working. For this reason, it is a good idea to create posts that are for a grade in a word processing program, like Microsoft Word and then copy and paste them into the Discussion Board.

E-Learning by Blackboard Email Guidelines:

1. Emails sent through the E-Learning by Blackboard system go to an email address that the user enters into Blackboard. To verify your email address in E-Learning by Blackboard, click the Tools button, go to Personal Information, and then check to be sure your email address is correct. If it is not, change it and then scroll down and click Submit. Do this any time your email address changes and at the beginning of every semester.
2. When you are sending email in E-Learning by Blackboard, you should use the Single/Select User option to send email messages. Select both your own name and the name(s) of the other people to who you are sending the message.
3. E-Learning by Blackboard does not "sign" your messages so be sure to include both your first and last name in the message, otherwise your instructor will not know who you are.
4. Keep a copy of all messages you send and receive during the semester, as they are good reference if you have a question.

6. Keep the email address of your instructor in a safe place so you can email him or her if you are having problems and if you can not log in to E-Learning by Blackboard for some reason.

Evaluation and Grading Methods: Performance will be evaluated through regular examinations, active participation in weekly on-line discussions and responses to issues on specific topics, and assigned writing projects and group projects during the semester. **Exams are NOT proctored but will be posted on-line (in E-Learning by Blackboard under " Assignments") for a period of 6-7 days, during which time you may take the exam. NOTE:** Once you start taking the exam you must complete it in the time allotted. It is strongly encouraged that you not wait until the last day to complete the exam, in case you should experience technical difficulties while taking your exam.

Make-Up Policy for Exams and Assignments: If there are circumstances beyond your control that cause you to miss taking a particular exam or to miss a deadline for submitting an assignment, it is your responsibility to inform the instructor of your inability to meet the established deadline and to provide a legitimate explanation. A legitimate explanation includes a work or family obligation that takes you out of town or a death in the family. It is your responsibility to contact the instructor (Curt Ankeny) as soon as possible if you know you are going to miss an assignment or if you need to take time to focus on a family situation. The instructor reserves the right to decide whether or not to give you an extension.

Making Up An Exam: If you are given an extension, you will be sent you a hard copy of the exam as a Word attachment in an e-mail message. You will have 24 hours to take the exam and return it to me to be corrected.

Grading Scale:

A = 90-100%	D = 60-69%
B = 80-89%	F = below 60%
C = 70-79%	

Required Text: *The Challenge of Democracy*, [Kenneth Janda, Jeffrey Berry and Jerry Goldman]. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, Eighth Edition, 2004. [ISBN: 0-618-37244-X]

Suggested Supplement: *The Essentials of MLA Style: A Guide to Documentation for Writers of Research Papers*, Joseph F. Trimmer. Boston: Houghton Mifflin Company, 1996, 1998.

Internet Resources:

<https://elearning.ivytech.edu> (Visit **E-Learning by Blackboard** for announcements, updated course information, syllabus and course documents). **You should already have an e-mail account set-up to allow you to actively participate in this class.**

<http://www.ivytech.edu/library/> (**Link to the Virtual Library**) As a student at Ivy Tech State College you have access and student use privileges for the Indiana University East (IUE) Library located in Hayes Hall on the Richmond IUE campus. In addition to the campus library services, the Ivy Tech Virtual Library is available to students on and off campus, offering full-text journals and books and other resources essential for course assignments. These resources will be very useful in your research preparing for your written assignments.

<http://www.bridgew.edu/depts/maxwell/mla.htm> (These are just two of the sites where you can find help in correctly citing works that you use for your research papers.)

http://www.wcu.edu/library/research/general/howtoguide/mlastyle_how.html

Phone Number and E-Mail: 937/832-5226; E-Mail: cankeny@ivytech.edu

Academic Honesty Statement:

The College is committed to academic integrity in all its practices. The faculty value intellectual integrity and a high standard of academic conduct. Activities that violate academic integrity undermine the quality and diminish the value of educational achievement.

Cheating on papers, tests or other academic works is a violation of College rules. No student shall engage in behavior that, in the judgment of the instructor of the class, may be construed as cheating. This may include, but is not limited to, plagiarism or other forms of academic dishonesty such as the acquisition without permission of tests or other academic materials and/or distribution of these materials and other academic work. This includes students who aid and abet as well as those who attempt such behavior.

ADA Statement:

Ivy Tech State College seeks to provide effective services and accommodations for qualified individuals with documented disabilities. If you need an accommodation because of a documented disability, you are required to register with Disability Support Services at the beginning of the semester. Contact Desiree Polk-Bland, Director of Student Support and Development, Ivy Tech State College, main campus, 2325 Chester Boulevard, Richmond, IN, 765-966-2656 ext. 334, for Disability Support Services. If you will require assistance during an emergency evacuation, notify your instructor immediately. Look for evacuation procedures posted in your classrooms.

Right of Revision: The course content is subject to change on syllabus/outline.

Minimum Technology Requirements: Since this is an Internet-based course, the following are minimum technology requirements to ensure your success in this class:

- A computer running Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, or ME: or, Mac OS 9 or Mac Os X
- A minimum of 64 MB of RAM
- Connection to the Internet using a 56K Modem or higher
- Microsoft Internet Explorer. JavaScript and Cookies must be enabled in Order the E-learning System by Blackboard to function properly.

**** Please note additional information included in the Course Outline Addendum, including Academic Honestly Statement, ADA Information, and Right of Revision Statement.**

Course Syllabus Addendum

Facility Closing Announcement

If any Ivy Tech Community College Region 9 facilities will be closed due to inclement weather or other emergency conditions, the closing will be announced on the radio and television stations listed below. Remember, even if College facilities remain open, you are expected to use your judgment as to whether the existing weather conditions permit safe travel. Notify your instructor if you do not attend class due to weather or other emergency conditions.

Below is the list of radio and television stations that will be contacted for facility closing announcements. Radio Stations: WKBV (AM 1490); WQLK (FM 96.1); WCNB (AM 1580); WFMG (FM 101.3); WMDH (AM 1550); WHON (AM 930); WIFE (FM 100.3); WKWH (FM 94.3), WCTW (AM 1550), WMDH (FM 102.5), Z93 (WGTZ FM 92.9), K99.1 (FM); Television Stations: Channel 7 WHIO (Dayton); Channel 2 WDTN (Dayton); Channel 22 WKEF (Dayton). Closings are also announced on the website, www.ivytech.edu/richmond/.

Certification/Licensure Training Disclaimer

Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana cannot guarantee that any student will pass a certification or licensing exam. Your success will be determined by several factors beyond the instruction you are given in the classroom including your test-taking skills, your willingness to study outside of class, and your satisfactory completion of appropriate practice exams. Certification and licensure exam questions are drawn from databases of hundreds of possible questions; therefore, a thorough understanding of the subject matter is required. The goal of Ivy Tech is providing a certification exam studies class is to assist you in understanding the material sufficiently to provide a firm foundation for your studies as you prepare for the exam.

Important Message for Pell Grant & Student Loan Recipients

If you withdraw from, or stop attending, all of your classes before 60% of the term has passed, you will owe money to the federal government and/or the College. In the event that this becomes necessary, see a student services advisor before you withdraw from classes or stop attending.

Instructor Initiated Revoke of Course Enrollment

Instructors may administratively withdraw a student from class enrollment for attendance and disciplinary issues with the approval of academic affairs. For attendance issues, the enrollment withdrawal may be initiated within the 60 to 75% time-period of the course. The registrar's office will notify the student if this action occurs.

Learning Resource Center

The Learning Resource Center (Rm. 132, Main Campus Building) is open to students when the Main Campus Building is open. Tutors are available: Monday – Thursday, 9:00 am – 7:00 pm; Friday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm; Saturday 9:00 am – 12:00 p.m.

Writing Across the Curriculum

Unless the instructor informs you otherwise, this class participates in the Writing Across the Curriculum program. All papers are required to meet professional standards in English composition. Specifically, all papers will:

- Be word processed in MLA or APA format, as designated by the instructor;
- Demonstrate professional writing through correct grammar and spelling;
- Demonstrate the development of a thesis using basic principles of composition.

Math and English Across the Curriculum

Ivy Tech Community College Region 9 participates in a statewide College initiative to assess math and English skills across the curriculum. For the first component of this project, students in MAT111 and

ENG111 are assessed at the end of the academic term for math and English proficiency. From this assessment, a sample is identified as benchmark data. The second component of this assessment is comprised of students enrolled in selected program defined capstone courses. Sample data from this group will be compared to the benchmark for assessing retention of math and English competencies.

Library Services

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Copyright

Material in this course is subject to protection of Copyright law.

Right of Revision

The course content is subject to change on syllabus/outline.

Revised: August 1, 2005

SUGGESTED SCHEDULE
Introduction to American Government and Politics – POL 101
Fall 2005 (Internet Section)

For the Week of...

- August 22** Introduction to the Course
The Dilemmas of Democracy
Read: Chapters 1-2
- August 29** Foundation and the Unique Qualities of American Government
Read: Chapters 3-4
- Select Topic for Writing Project I: "Opinion-Editorial Column" Assignment
(Note to Curt Ankeny by January 23)**
- September 5** **Exam #1 (Chapters 1-4) -- [Because of Labor Day Weekend, this exam will be available from Tuesday, September 6--Monday, September 12]**
- The People and Their Government -- Political Socialization
Read: Chapter 5
- September 12** The Influence and Power of Outsiders: The Media and Interest Groups
Read: Chapters 6 & 10
- Groupings for Writing Project III will be sent to everyone**
- September 19** The People and Their Government -- Participation as Citizens & Elections
Read: Chapters 7-8
- Writing Project I: "Op-Ed Column" Due by September 25**
- September 26** **EXAM #2 (Chapters 5-8) -- [To be completed by October 2]**
- The People and Their Government -- Political Campaigns
Read: Chapters 9
- October 3** The Institutions of Government -- The Congress
Read: Chapters 11
- October 10** **EXAM #3: (Chapters 9-11) -- [To be completed by October 16]**
- The Institutions of Government -- The Presidency
Read: Chapter 12
- Topic for Writing Project III Due - Note to Curt Ankeny by October 16**
- October 17** The Institutions of Government -- The Judiciary
Read: Chapter 14
- October 24** The Institutions of Government -- The Bureaucracy
Read: Chapter 13
- Writing Project II: Pending Legislation in Congress Due October 30**

October 31 **EXAM #4: (Chapters 12-14) -- [To be completed by November 6]**

Public Order and Civil Liberties
Read: Chapter 15

November 7 Equality and Civil Rights
Read: Chapter 16

November 11 **Last day to drop this course without a penalty. After this date you will receive a grade for this class.**

November 12 Public Policy Issues
Read: Chapter 17

November 21-25 **THANKSGIVING BREAK – No classes this week**

November 28 **EXAM #5: Chapters 15-17 -- [To be completed by December 4]**

US Economic Policy Issues
Read: Chapters 18

December 5 US Domestic and Foreign Policy Issues
Reading: Chapters 19- 20

Writing Project III Due by December 11

December 12 **EXAM #6 (Chapters 18-20) [To be completed by December 18]**

END OF COURSE

OUTLINE FOR WRITING ASSIGNMENTS
Introduction to American Government and Politics -- POL 101
Fall 2005 – Internet Section

PLEASE NOTE: All papers must be submitted in MS Word format (.doc) or Text format (.txt). It is the student's responsibility to submit papers that can easily be opened by the instructor. **Please submit your papers via the Digital Dropbox in E-Learning by Blackboard.**

I. "Op-Ed" Column

- A. Review some of the political columns or editorials in your local newspaper to get a sense of how the writer addresses an issue.
- B. Select a topic to address that is currently of local or national interest.
- C. Share your opinion but make a reasoned argument – pro or con – about this issue and state that argument in 500-600 words.

Deadline: September 25, 2005

II. Writing Project: Briefing Paper: Pending Legislation in Congress

- A. Select one piece of legislation being considered in this current session (109th) of Congress.
- B. Conduct a search of Internet sites, including the Web sites for the US Senate and the US House of Representatives, or magazine articles that articulate their stand on this issue.
- C. Write a short 2-3 page containing all these components:
 - 1) Synopsis of the legislation, names of key sponsors of the bill, # of the Bill (HRXXX or Senate Bill XXX), and any other information pertaining this bill
 - 2) Share key points being cited in favor of this legislation
 - 3) Key points being cited by those opposed to this legislation
 - 4) Give your opinion on which way you feel this legislation should go – approved or defeated.
 - 5) Briefly share why you chose to research this particular issue: Were you drawn to this issue because you agree or disagree with this legislation?

Deadline: October 30, 2005

III. Group Writing Project: Research and Write a Paper on a Key Political Issue in America

- A. As a small group (4 people), come to a consensus on a topic to address in your paper. Ideally, a topic of current interest or one that address a key area of the American political process, as discussed in our text.
- B. Review the expected components of your paper and as a group consult together and make assignments for preparing this paper for final submission on December 11, 2005.
- C. You are free to choose how you assign various duties to members of your group. You may choose to all do research and write a paper and then combine your efforts to create one final version of you paper. Or, you may choose to assign certain tasks to certain members of your group. Be aware that at the end of the course, you will be asked to evaluate the participation of each member of your group.
- D. **Your grade on the paper will be determined by: 1) Quality of the paper, 2) Evidence of good research using legitimate sources, 3) Your level of participation in preparing this semester paper, and 4) organizing your paper according to the guidelines found on the following page.**

PLEASE USE THE OUTLINE BELOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR PAPER.

Outline for Group Writing Project III -- Research Paper

Prepare an original 6-8 page research paper,

NOTE: The main body of the paper should be 6-8 pages in length.)

Your paper should be organized in the following manner and contain the following components compiled in one document:

- A. Cover Sheet (Name of Course, Name of Student, Date of Paper)
- B. Thesis
- C. Introduction [B. & C. can be on the same page]
 - 1. Background of this Issue
 - 2. Statement of the Main Components of this Issue
 - 3. Report Preview
- D. Major Issues [4-5 double-spaced pages in length]
- E. Summary
- F. Conclusion [E. & F. should be on the same page.]
- G. Optional: Endnotes (If you used numbers to note your sources in the paper, please include a list of these footnotes)
- H. Works Consulted (all the resources you read to write this paper)
 - 1. Books
 - 2. Magazine/Journal Articles
 - 3. Other Sources, such as the Internet.
- I. Works Cited (all sources from which you drew quotes or major ideas)
 - 1. Books
 - 2. Magazine/Journal Articles
 - 3. Other Sources, such as the Internet
- J. Optional: Tables and Illustrations

Deadline: December 11, 2005

**** You must conduct sufficient research for your paper, defined as consulting no less than eight (8) sources from books, journal and magazine articles, and the Internet. Please visit the Virtual Library provided by Ivy Tech. You can find many good resources, including professional journals and other reputable sources at <http://ivytech.edu/library/richmond>**

The textbook can be used as a source but will NOT be counted in the required minimum of eight (8) sources that you must consult.

**** No more than 50% of Works Cited should be derived from the Internet – that is, no more than four citations will allowed from this source.**

**** You are expected to use and to follow MLA guidelines proposed either by *The Essentials of MLA Style* or various MLA Internet sites for listing Works Consulted and Works Cited.**

**** As much as possible, try to present a fair and balanced view of your topic. If possible, following generally accepted practices for an objective paper, please share both sides of the issue (or issues), even you don't agree with the "other side."**

**** To assist you in organizing your papers, examples of research papers -- written by students in previous classes -- can be found on-line in "Course Documents."**

AN IMPORTANT NOTE: Make sure that you are stating ideas and concepts in your own words. If you are quoting directly from such sources as the Internet or you are linking one quote with another throughout your paper, it is usually very obvious to the reader. Remember, using sources without attribution is plagiarism. (Please see the section on Academic Honesty in the Course Outline Addendum)

**** If you would like, I (Curt) am available to review any of your writing projects 2-3 WEEKS PRIOR to submission. Please send it to me (in MS Word or as a Text file only) via the Digital Dropbox in Blackboard. WHEN YOU PLACE YOUR PAPER IN DIGITAL DROPBOX, PLEASE SEND AN E-MAIL INFORMING ME THAT YOU HAVE FILED YOUR PAPER THERE.**